

## PUGET SOUND LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

January 13, 2014

*The Puget Sound Legislative Update highlights the issues related to our region's work to protect and restore the health of Puget Sound, Washington's greatest natural asset.*

### 2014 Legislative Session starts today

Today is day one of the 60-day Legislative Session. Gov. Inslee has defined 2014 as a "hold steady, get ready" year, signifying that no significant new legislation is expected in this short session. Many legislators share this sentiment. Control is split between Democrats in the House and Republicans in the Senate, and this fall is a big election year. Each caucus will likely stake out positions to highlight policy positions and differences on a variety of issues in order to lay the groundwork for 2015.

For the first time in years, legislators aren't confronted with a budget shortfall. Instead, there's enough projected revenue to fund what they agreed to in the two-year budget, adopted in 2013. Gov. Inslee has proposed a Supplemental Budget and the Legislature is anticipated to make small and technical changes. Debates will focus on how to allocate the small projected surplus, with most of the emphasis on complying with the Supreme Court's recent mandate to fully fund basic education.

### Puget Sound budget prioritization

To help elected officials make the most of limited tax dollars, the Puget Sound Partnership coordinated with the Office of Financial Management to independently prioritize and rank state agency budget proposals related to Puget Sound. The ranked investments (*see pg. 2*) are included in Gov. Inslee's proposed Supplemental Budget and reflect the priorities in the Action Agenda, the federally approved regional plan to restore the health of Puget Sound.

For an overview of the Puget Sound priorities, please visit:  
[www.psp.wa.gov/pressreleases/partnership\\_release.php?id=2269](http://www.psp.wa.gov/pressreleases/partnership_release.php?id=2269)

### 2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### Information:

- The 2014 Legislative Session is scheduled from Jan. 13 to March 13.
- Puget Sound Legislative Updates are posted every Monday at: [http://www.psp.wa.gov/legislative\\_updates.php](http://www.psp.wa.gov/legislative_updates.php)
- For up-to-date Legislative information, visit: [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)
- Watch or listen to hearings and work sessions on: [www.tvw.org](http://www.tvw.org)
- Board members can participate in weekly coordination calls about issues in Olympia every Friday from 11:30-noon.
- Connect with PSP for breaking news and other events affecting Puget Sound on Twitter@PSPPartnership and Facebook: [www.facebook.com/PugetSoundPartnership](http://www.facebook.com/PugetSoundPartnership)

#### Communication & Coordination:

If you are planning to meet with legislators or would like assistance with state legislative issues regarding Puget Sound priorities, please contact:

#### Michael Grayum

State and Local Government Relations  
Director, 360-628-1907

## Prioritized Puget Sound Funding Requests

### Operating Budget—Washington State Agencies

Puget Sound Partnership Ranking	Summary	Agency	Agency Request		Inslee Recommended	
			Total Request	Puget Sound Portion	Recommended Funding Level	Puget Sound Portion
1	Local Government Planning Support	COMMERCE	4,482	4,258	982	933
2	Beach Monitoring Fund Shift (GF-F to ELSA)	ECOLOGY	-	-	-	-
3	Culvert Injunction Requirements	FISH & WILDLIFE	2,680	2,010	1,432	1,074
4	Managing Aquatic Invasive Species	FISH & WILDLIFE	3,801	1,330	-	-
5	Rail-Vessel Oil Spill Risk	ECOLOGY	652	135	652	135
6	Addressing Livestock Inputs	CONS. COMMISSION	2,500	1,500	-	-
7	Voluntary Stewardship Program	CONS. COMMISSION	1,020	510	-	-
8	Compliance with Product Laws	ECOLOGY	611	183	611	183
9	Forest, Fish & Adaptive Management	NATURAL RESOURCES	3,832	3,832	-	-
10	Increase Toxic Cleanups	NATURAL RESOURCES	1,441	635	1,441	635
11	Implementing Puget Sound District Activities	CONS. COMMISSION	55	55	-	-
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>			<b>21,074</b>	<b>14,448</b>	<b>5,118</b>	<b>2,960</b>

### Capital Budget—Washington State Agencies

Puget Sound Partnership Ranking	Summary	Agency	Agency Request		Inslee Recommended	
			Total Request	Puget Sound Portion	Recommended Funding Level	Puget Sound Portion
1	Replace Barrier Culverts on DNR Land	NATURAL RESOURCES	10,000	1,660	3,350	444
2	CERB Urban Economic Development Loans	COMMERCE	2,000	1,000	-	-
3	Water Pollution Control Revolving Program	ECOLOGY	70,500	42,300	70,500	42,300
4	Remedial Action Grants	ECOLOGY	7,132	5,645	8,937	7,450
5	Cleanup Toxic Sites - Puget Sound	ECOLOGY	-	-	15,381	15,381
6	Pub. Works Trust Fund Pre-Const. Loan Funds	COMMERCE	10,000	5,500	10,000	5,500
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL</b>			<b>99,632</b>	<b>56,105</b>	<b>108,168</b>	<b>71,075</b>

\*\*\* \$ in millions

## Weekly Highlights

- **Opening ceremonies:** Washington's legislative leaders jumped into a new session today. Opening ceremonies began at noon.
- **State of the State:** Gov. Inslee will give his State of the State address during a joint session of the Legislature inside House chambers at noon on Tuesday, Jan. 14.
- **Governor's reception honoring PSP's new executive director:** Gov. Inslee appointed Sheida Sahandy to lead the Puget Sound Partnership's regional effort to coordinate, prioritize, and provide accountability for the many entities working together to restore the health of Puget Sound. Sheida starts Feb. 4. The Governor is hosting a welcoming reception for her at his residence the evening of Wednesday, Jan. 15. For the media release announcing Sheida's appointment, please visit: <http://www.governor.wa.gov/news/releases/article.aspx?id=189>

## **Weekly Highlights** *(continued)*

- **Puget Sound Partnership's Leadership Council meeting in Olympia:** Key topics to be discussed at the two-day meeting Thursday, Jan. 16, and Friday, Jan. 17, include: marine sediment issues and oil transport issues. It will also include welcoming remarks from the Governor. All Leadership Council meetings are open to the public. The agenda and other details are available at: [http://www.psp.wa.gov/LC\\_meetings.php](http://www.psp.wa.gov/LC_meetings.php).

## **Upcoming Legislative Hearings & Work Sessions**

### **Tuesday, Jan. 14**

- 10 a.m. House Environment Committee; Work Session: State Environment Policy Act, overview and recent developments.
- 1:30 p.m. Senate Natural Resources & Parks Committee; Work Session: Briefing from the Department of Natural Resources and Department of Health regarding China's suspension of shellfish imports from Washington.
- 1:30 p.m. House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee; Work Session: Skagit Conservation District's farms, fish, and floods initiative.

### **Wednesday, Jan. 15**

- 8 a.m. Senate Energy, Environment & Telecommunications Committee; Work Session: Environmental Legacy Stewardship Account (ELSA).
- 1:30 p.m. House Environment Committee; Work Session: Overview of programs to manage waste in Washington.
- 3:30 p.m. House Transportation Committee; Work Session: Fish passage barriers, the problem and potential paths forward.

### **Thursday, Jan. 16**

- 8 a.m. Senate Trade & Economic Development Committee joint with Senate Energy, Environment & Telecommunications Committee; Work Session: Economic impacts of environmental regulations.
- 10 a.m. Senate Governmental Operations Committee; Work Session: Growth management.
- 1:30 p.m. Senate Energy, Environment & Telecommunications Committee; Work Session: Fish consumption rates and water quality standards.

## Legislator & Committee Changes

The recent November elections resulted in several changes in the Legislature. Rep. Jan Angel defeated Sen. Nathan Schlicher, who was filling the vacancy of Congressman Derek Kilmer. **Sen. Jan Angel** will join the Senate Majority Coalition Caucus, which now has 26 members. Jesse Young was selected by local Republicans to fill the now vacant position in the House of Representatives, which must still be confirmed by the Kitsap County Board of Commissioners and the Pierce County Council.

**Sen. Sharon Nelson** was selected to replace newly elected **Seattle Mayor Ed Murray** as the leader of the minority Senate Democratic Caucus. **Rep. Jamie Pedersen**, Chair of the House Judiciary Committee, was appointed by the King County Council to fill Murray's vacant Senate seat. **Brady Walkinshaw** was appointed by the King County Council to fill Pedersen's position in the House of Representatives.

**Sen. Kevin Ranker** has been promoted to the number two position on the Ways & Means Committee, where he will play a key role in crafting the state budget. Sen. Ranker will continue to serve on the Energy, Environment & Telecommunications Committee. **Sen. John McCoy** was recently selected by the Snohomish County Council to fill the seat vacated by **Sen. Nick Harper** and will serve as the ranking Democrat on the Energy, Environment & Telecommunications Committee. Sen. McCoy will also serve on the Government Operations Committee, which considers land use and growth management, and other local government policy issues.

**Rep. Joe Fitzgibbon** will play a key role in protecting the quality of the water, land and air in Washington State as the new Chair of the House Environment Committee. Fitzgibbon will take over leadership of this committee from **Rep. Dave Upthegrove**, a stalwart supporter of Puget Sound who recently left the Legislature after being elected to the King County Council.

## Puget Sound Partnership Updates

Check out the latest newsletter from the Partnership highlighting the latest agency news and our partners in action. This month features the Partnership's executive director. Read more at <http://us1.campaign-archive1.com/?u=1e527a1c4505cbd9d6662d091&id=f5a6e5c45b>

Newsletter content focuses on the Puget Sound Partnership's role in leading the recovery of Puget Sound. The Partnership coordinates the efforts of citizens, governments, tribes, scientists, businesses and nonprofits to set priorities, implement a regional recovery plan and ensure accountability for results.

To receive regular updates you can sign up for our electronic newsletter or regular E-clips news clipping service at [http://www.psp.wa.gov/contact\\_simple.php](http://www.psp.wa.gov/contact_simple.php).